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Eriocaulon septangulare. The genus *Eriocaulon*, with the exception of *E. septangulare* in the lakes of the isles of Skye, and a few of the neighboring Hebrides, and of Connemara, in Ireland, is wholly wanting in Europe and Russian Asia. The genus extends over North and South America almost from pole to pole, and is well represented in tropical Asia, Africa and Australia, (Bentham). Withering (1787) gives the stations of *E. septangulare* in the isle of Skye, with great detail, stating that it was discovered in two or three small fresh water lochs in 1768. In one of these he says that it occurred in such abundance that "the white fibres of the roots are thrown on the edges of the loch as sea-weeds on the sea-shore."

K. B. CLAYPOLE.

Botanical Notes.

Subularia aquatica, L.—Dr. J. W. Chickering, under date of November 16th, 1889, writes as follows: "In 1858, I discovered *Subularia* in abundance about two miles west from Portland, Me., along the line of the old Portland and Sebago Canal, on muddy banks caused by the washing out of the canal, and collected a quantity. Two or three years after, I visited the locality, and although the environment was in all its conditions unchanged, I could not find a trace of it."

DAVID F. DAY.

Note upon Ailanthus.—In connection with Mr. A. F. Wood's observations on the Cottonwood, reviewed in the February BULLETIN, page 43, it may be said that during the past season repeated observations were made upon the Ailanthus, (*Ailanthus glandulosus*, a well-known shade tree in the Eastern States, in order, if possible, to obtain some means by which to distinguish the staminate from the pistillate plants while they are seedlings. As yet nothing has been discovered in wood or bark, bud or leaf, that will give any clue as to the sex. There are great differences as to time of leafing and defoliation between trees of this species growing apparently under the same circumstances, but the sex seems to have nothing to do with this. In fact, it is not uncommon for species of trees with perfect flowers

to exhibit as great variations, in these and many other respects, not to exclude the striking one of foliage coloration in autumn.

The value of some distinguishing sex characteristic in the case of seedling *Ailanthus* trees, could it be found, would be appreciated by all who are acquainted with these ornamental trees. To others we need only to quote a line from Dr. Gray: "Called Tree of Heaven—but whose blossoms, especially the staminate ones, are redolent of anything but 'airs from heaven.'" It is needless to say that it is desirable to exclude the males from the city streets.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

New Brunswick, N. J., Feb. 12, 1890.

Burning of the Botanical Museum and Laboratory of the Michigan Agricultural College. On the night of March 23d, our Botanical Laboratory and Museum was destroyed by fire. We were able to carry out and preserve all the books, charts and apparatus, including the mounted portion of the herbarium. The Wheeler herbarium, recently purchased, containing over seven thousand species, including the most complete collection of Michigan plants ever brought together, was lost, together with a part of the electrotypes to illustrate my second volume on grasses. If life and health are spared, we shall have, in a few years, a much better building and a finer museum. For the present, very good accommodations for the botanical department are furnished in a part of the new Agricultural Laboratory recently completed.

W. J. BEAL.

A Munificent Gift. Mary E. Banning, who has for several years been studying the fungi of Maryland and making colored drawings of them, has recently presented to the New York State Museum of Natural History, a magnificent volume of illustrations of the species that have come under her observation. It contains one hundred and seventy-five plates, representing nearly as many species belonging mostly to the Hymenomycetes and Gasteromycetes. The plates are about the same in length as those of the *Icones Selectæ Hymenomycetum* of Fries and a little greater in breadth. The figures are most beautifully executed, painted in water colors and are very life-like in expression and accurate in detail. They are accompanied by manuscript de-

scriptions of the species, the botanical name, and in some instances by remarks suggested by the study of the specimens or by difficulties encountered in collecting them. The edible species are also indicated. The whole work is the product of Miss Banning's own labor and does great credit to her as an artist and a mycologist. The volume is one of great value, and the New York State Museum is under great obligations to its author for such a munificent gift.

CHAS. H. PECK.

Reviews of Foreign Literature.

White Huckleberries.—In the *Berichte der deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft* for January, pp. 387-400, is a paper by Ascherson and Magnus* which considers at length the albinos and other color and form variations in *V. Myrtillus* and other species of the genus *Vaccinium*. White huckleberries have long been known, and many citations are given of their being found in various countries throughout the world. Schweter, in 1878, described a fungus disease of the huckleberry fruit under the name of *Sclerotinia baccarum* that has been considered by some botanists as the cause of the variations of color and form above mentioned. As the title indicates, the present paper is to show that the ordinary white huckleberry is not identical with those *Vaccinium* fruits that are modified by the presence of the *Sclerotinia*. The authors claim with much authority that while in the case of *V. Myrtillus* var. *leucocarpa* there may be some ground for the belief in identity, it is entirely superficial. Form and color may mislead, but when the microscopic structure is studied, and more particularly the fungus fruit that under proper conditions is produced from the diseased berries, it becomes evident that the two are very unlike in origin. By referring to Dr. Woronin's elaborate paper,† with its ten superior plates, it is quickly seen that Schweter's species, under consideration, is well understood and clearly set forth, along with several others that prey upon the huckleberries.

*Die Weisse Heidelbeere (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*, L. var. *leucocarpa*, Hause). nicht identische mit der durch *Sclerotinia baccarum* (Sch.), Rehm, verursachten Sclerotien Krankheit.

†Ueber die Sclerotien Krankheit der Vaccinien Beeren, 1888.